

Mr. President, new bills. (Read titles for the first time to LB 1115-1122. See pages 325-27 of the Legislative Journal.) That is all that I have, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Proceeding then to the next bill, LB 647. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: LB 647, Mr. President, by Senators Nelson and Wesely. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 23 of last year. At that time it was referred to the Education Committee. The Education Committee conducted its public hearing, advanced the bill to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. To the bill then. Senator Nelson, please.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, this bill was held over from last year. I simply realized that there was not enough money to fund all projects and all bills that we would like to have so I had the bill held over until this year. The bill primarily gives schools an incentive to continue their vocational education programs or to offer vocational education programs. The bill is no alternative for kids choosing not to go on to a four-year college. I want you to know that. But kids do need to get a head start, not just a job with minimum wage or part-time wage, or as we are seeing now, more and more no fringe benefits of which then, of course, we all have to pay that. This bill is just not economics. It's not just agriculture training or shop. It's the opportunity for basic skills and to apply academic skills to complement their other learning. High schools need to explore these, expose the student and then he may realize that later in life he, by continuing his further education, that he is more employable and more productive. It's rather interesting. There was a graduate follow-up survey conducted by the vocational education director at Crete, Nebraska. I will not in essence and time go through it word for word but in essence it was sent out to 300 graduate students. These students were within 150 miles of Crete, which tells you that the students stay around Crete, Nebraska. Seventy-three percent responded that the courses in vocational education that they took in high school benefited them most. Forty-six percent listed one or more vocational course that would benefit them today had they taken them in high school. I think that that is a very interesting record and that was taken